

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2014 Council Chambers Room 115, City Hall

Policy Committee minutes are transcribed in a summarized outline manner. Audio recordings are on file with the City of Bloomington Planning Department.

Attendance

Policy Committee: Laurel Cornell (CAC), Cheryl Munson (Monroe County Council), Bill Williams (Monroe County Highway), Jack Baker (Bloomington Plan Commission), Andy Ruff (Bloomington City Council), Scott Wells (Monroe County Plan Commission), Tony McClellan (INDOT), Tom Micuda (City of Bloomington), Jason Banach (IU)

Others: Rachel Bunn (Herald Times), Larry Jacobs (Chamber of Commerce), Liz Irwin (Chamber of Commerce), Sandra Flum (INDOT)

MPO Staff: Josh Desmond, Jane Weiser

I. Call to Order:

II. Approval of Minutes:

A. June 13, 2014:

Tom Micuda moved approval of the June 13, 2014 minutes. Scott Wells requested the record reflect there were pictures presented during the meeting as part of the discussion of I69. The minutes were approved with the amendments requested by Scott Wells through unanimous voice vote.

III. Communications from the Chair: None at this time.

IV. Reports from Officers and/or Committees:

A. Citizens Advisory Committee: None at this time.

B. Technical Advisory Committee:

The Technical Advisory Committee meeting was held August 27th, 2014. The agenda for that meeting was the same as the agenda for today's MPO Policy Committee meeting. The committee voted unanimously in support of the Transportation Improvement Program Amendment which is on the MPO Plan Commission agenda for today.

V. Reports from the MPO Staff:

A. MTP Task Force:

Josh Desmond reported that the next meeting for the Task Force currently scheduled for September 22nd will be cancelled to give staff and the consultant for the travel demand model more time to wrap up the last steps in preparing the model and creating documents. The next meeting will take place in October 27th. That should give lots of time for staff to make progress. It will also give staff time to prepare for some open houses for the public to give input on the transportation plan. The open houses will be held in early to mid November.

B. Quarterly Tracking Report:

Desmond said the quarterly report is included in the packet. It is to show progress as projects proceed from the time they enter the TIP until their letting date. It helps staff see if the projects are moving forward on schedule and meeting the allotted budget. Some projects have recently gone to let, some are in construction and others are on track for later this year. Desmond highlighted the end of the report where Anna Dragovich has prepared graphs to show the status of different projects. Most of the graphs show the projects are close to their expectations in regards to expense and progress.

VI. Old Business: None at this time.

VII. New Business

A. Transportation Improvement Program Amendment- INDOT Bridge Inspection:

There is one TIP amendment for approval as requested by the State of Indiana. It is to add \$250,000 in bridge funds for Fiscal Year 2015 for quality assurance and quality control audits on state and county bridge inspection data. This is for an independent consultant to come in and do a random sampling of state and county bridge inspection data from all over the state and analyze it to make sure the inspections are done accurately and timely. The auditor could even do another inspection to make sure the prior inspection was done correctly. This amendment is to provide the funding for this audit to happen throughout the state. There was an identical amendment to this in the TIP for fiscal year 2014, so this is not the first time this funding has been added to the TIP to fund this audit. The \$250,000 is for all MPOs statewide. This way the state can pay for the audit regardless of which MPO district the inspection sampling comes from. The TAC and CAC both made recommendations for approval.

Jack Baker asked to clarify if the money was being transferred from the budget for Fiscal Year 2014. Desmond clarified it is an additional \$250,000 and not a transfer from Fiscal Year 2014. Scott Wells asked if this is just for Fiscal Year 2015. Desmond clarified it was; if the state needed to add funds for Fiscal Year 2016, the funds would need to be added to the TIP at that time. Cheryl Munson asked what would happen if the auditor found a red flag. Desmond said he was not sure, but it would probably need to be address by whoever completed the initial audit. Tony McClellan said if a red flag was found, the inspector could go through remediation to train them for what to be looking for in the future, or the inspector could be disqualified from doing inspections in the future, depending on if they had had problems in the past.

****Tom Micuda moved for approval. Cheryl Munson seconded. Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote; 9:0.**

VIII. Communications from Committee Members (*non-agenda items*)

A. I69 Erosion control issues:

Scott Wells presented a power point showing continuing problems with erosion and water control caused by I69 construction. He mentioned in the summer there were some meetings scheduled but then cancelled before the erosion problems were resolved. He feels the meetings were cancelled and the general discussion stopped to prevent our funding from being pulled. He is using the photos in the slide show to illustrate how the erosion control problems have not been fixed. The photos are of properties owned by the Tokarski family, the Swopes family, the Knapp family, the Garvey family and the Wisniewski family in the Section 4 area of I69 after

rainfalls of between 1 and 1 1/2 inches each in July, August and September. Wells reminded the Plan Committee the first complaints were made in Monroe County in May of last year and these photos demonstrate that the issues remain. The sediment in the water is going directly into people's water supplies. Wells made three requests of INDOT: to supply potable water for the Garvey and Knapp families because their water supplies have been permanently destroyed by the erosion, to correct the drainage pattern soil runoff problems on the Wisniewski property, and to correct the drainage design flaws that cause the repeated bouts of choking siltation and sedimentation in the waterways in the area. He questioned what impact this is having on the environment.

Cheryl Munson has promoted I69's construction ever since the decision to build Section 4 was made to help the construction be the best it can be in the fragile environment. The impression among the public that members of the MPO are fighting I69 is a misconception. The committee members have responsibilities to make sure the concerns and problems experienced by the people in this region are heard and acted upon. There was a meeting with Bill Williams to attempt to find a solution to the flooding problem on the Wisniewski property and a meeting with representatives from INDOT and the Chamber of Commerce about the Garvey water supply and the Wisniewski flooding. Both meetings left Munson feeling hopeful because some solutions were presented. No action has yet been taken because INDOT is waiting on an estimate from Mr. Garvey on the cost to connect his water supply to a commercial source and to fix his contaminated pond as well as information from an environmental engineering specialist for mitigation measures to change the course of the water on the Wisniewski land to prevent more flooding. Munson is concerned the issues will not be resolved. She will be giving updates on the status of these issues until a solution has been reached. This is a problem for everyone since it involves people affected by a state and federal project.

Wells added these problems all stem from the karst features in the corridor. There are more karst features than expected, which has caused all these environmental problems and time delays.

Andy Ruff talked about the environmental impacts. Any amount of rain causes these problems with sedimentation. Indian Creek is a state designated high value stream with national and international significance because it is a karst stream. This stream has been ecologically sacrificed for this project. That stream is an unrecognized sacrifice of the project.

Tony McClellan spoke on behalf of INDOT. He stated they are concerned about the environmental issues. They have tried to provide answers, even if not everyone is happy with them. What has happened is the MPO has spent a lot of time talking about issues that are not within its jurisdiction. Because of this, INDOT is taking a different stance. They still want to hear these concerns, but they want them addressed through the Chamber of Commerce or through the project manager and customer service lines. McClellan has heard people say there is no accountability, but there are many agencies looking at these issues and they have continuously found INDOT is complying. McClellan can't control what is discussed during the MPO meetings, but INDOT will only discuss issues within the Policy Committee's jurisdiction. Even in those cases there will be better results if the issues are brought through the proper channels.

Wells said he appreciates McClellan is here because communication is the first step. He does not agree that addressing the issues through the Chamber of Commerce is an efficient method of having the issues heard. He, Cheryl Munson, Iris Kiesling, Bill Williams and others on the Policy Committee represent these affected areas. The Policy Committee is where you get direct feedback on these issues. He doesn't agree INDOT is following the policies if people are experiencing the same sedimentation problems following moderate rains a year after the issue was first raised. In his business, if he saw water coming out like that, he would know there was an issue. He just hopes we can do a better job on this.

Munson asked that the phone numbers and names of the contacts on the project manager and customer service lines be available to members of the MPO Policy Committee and the Herald Times so people know who to contact when they have a problem. She will be happy to listen to people about any problems they experience.

Ruff said it wasn't long ago when the State of Indiana threatened to take away the funding for this MPO on unrelated projects when the MPO considered not approving funding for projects related to I69 that are in the jurisdiction of the MPO. I69 is one project that impacts every area. He does not agree that discussing I69 during these meetings is inappropriate. Wells agreed.

IX. Upcoming Meetings

- A. Technical Advisory Committee – September 24, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. (McCloskey Room)**
- B. Citizens Advisory Committee – September 24, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. (McCloskey Room)**
- C. Policy Committee – October 10, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. (Council Chambers)**

Adjournment

These minutes were adopted by the Policy Committee at their meeting held on _
(JFW)